

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 053716
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APPROVED BY NEA:NVELIOTES
IO/UNP:GHELMAN
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S/S: MR. SEBASTIAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USINT BAGHDAD
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T STATE 053716

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PFOR, IZ, US

SUBJECT: IRAQI UN MISSION ACQUISITION OF FIREARMS

REF: BAGHDAD 422

1. WE AGREE WE DO NOT WANT TO CLOSE THE BOOKS WITH THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT OVER THE ISSUE OF THE THIRTY REMAINING MAC-10 SUBMACHINE GUNS DELIVERED TO THEIR UN MISSION ON NOVEMBER 12, 1976. YOU SHOULD THEREFORE EXPRESS TO ZAHAWI OUR CONTINUING CONCERN OVER THIS MATTER, DRAWING ON FOLLOWING POINTS:

(A) RECALL YOUR DECEMBER 23 CONVERSATION WITH ZAHAWI IN WHICH YOU MENTIONED THAT THE BOXES WERE MARKED 1/4, 2/4, 3/4 AND 4/4, AND STRESS THAT WE HAVE OTHER SUPPORTING
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EVIDENCE THAT FOUR BOXES CONTAINING 100 WEAPONS WERE DELIVERED TO THE IRAQI UN MISSION ON NOVEMBER 12--TO WIT:

-- THE BOXES BORE OTHER MARKS IDENTIFYING THEM AS A SHIPMENT OF FOUR BOXES WHICH ORIGINATED WITH THE KENSINGTON, MARYLAND FIREARMS DEALER WHO FORWARDED THE GUNS TO THE IRAQI MISSION IN NEW YORK;

-- THE DELIVERY COMPANY'S DOCUMENTS, INCLUDING THE RECEIPT, INDICATE THAT THE SHIPMENT CONSISTED OF FOUR BOXES;

-- WE HAVE EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS THAT FOUR BOXES WERE DELIVERED TO THE IRAQI MISSION;

-- WE HAVE OBTAINED THE SERIAL NUMBERS OF THE MISSING THIRTY WEAPONS;

-- SOME OF THE RETURNED WEAPONS WERE WRAPPED IN NEWSPAPERS PUBLISHED AFTER THE NOVEMBER 12 DELIVERY DATE, INDICATING SOME REPACKING.

(B) THERE ARE EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS THAT THE RECEIPT FOR THE SHIPMENT WAS PACKED IN ONE OF THE BOXES AND THAT TO SIGN THE RECEIPT THE BOX WAS OPENED, SO THAT WHOEVER SIGNED THE RECEIPT MUST HAVE KNOWN THAT THE BOXES CONTAINED WEAPONS.

(C) ZAHAWI SHOULD REALIZE THAT DETAILS AS TO THE NUMBER OF GUNS DELIVERED WILL PROBABLY BE FULLY DISCLOSED IN THE COURT CASE AGAINST THE DEFENDANT WHO DIVERTED THE WEAPONS TO THE IRAQI UN MISSION.

(D) THE USG VIEWS AT-TAYYAR'S VIOLATION OF HIS DIPLOMATIC STATUS SERIOUSLY. WE URGE THE GOI TO FACILITATE THE RETURN OF THE THIRTY WEAPONS AND REMOVE THIS IRRITANT TO U.S.-IRAQI RELATIONS. THE USG WOULD BE WILLING CONSIDER
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WHATEVER SERIOUS PROPOSAL THE GOI WOULD MAKE TO EFFECT THE RETURN OF THESE WEAPONS TO USG CONTROL.

2. FYI. WE AGREE THAT ZAHAWI IS PROBABLY STONEWALLING AND THAT MFA MAY HAVE LITTLE CONTROL OVER THE IRAQI AGENCY APPARENTLY CLOSELY INVOLVED WITH THIS INCIDENT (BAGHDAD 1855 OF 16 DEC 76). FOREIGN MINISTER HAMMADI HAS EXPRESSED TO AMERICAN VISITORS SINCE THE INAUGURATION INTEREST IN IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES. THIS MIGHT RESULT IN HAMMADI BEING WILLING TO TAKE SOME ACTION WHICH WOULD RESULT IN THE RETURN OF THE WEAPONS IF WE SHOW THAT WE CONSIDER THE 30 SUB-MACHINE GUNS A SERIOUS, AND STILL OPEN, ISSUE. END FYI.
VANCE

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